

REMARKS

I. Objections to the Drawings

Figure 1 was objected to for not including the legend “Prior Art.” In response to this objection, Applicants have amended Figure 1 to include the legend “Prior Art.” Applicants have also amended the description of the drawings in the specification.

The drawings were also objected to for not containing flowcharts to show the method steps of Claims 1-49. In response to this objection, Applicants have added flowcharts and accompanying description in the specification. These additions are supported by the originally-filed claims.

II. Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to for an informality, and Applicants were asked to update the references to patent applications in the specification to reflect their current status. In response to this objection, Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

III. Objections to the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 27, 37, 40, 41, 45, 47, 48, and 49 were objected to because the phrase “the memory device” lacks proper antecedent basis. Claims 2, 5, 11-17, 20, 22, 26, 38, 39, 42-44, and 46 were objected to for inheriting the deficiencies of the preceding claims in the claim dependency chain. In response to these objections, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 27, 37, 40, 41, 45, 47, 48, and 49 to add “write-once” between “the” and “memory device.” Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of these amendments, the objections to the claims have been overcome.

IV. Allowable Claims and Subject Matter

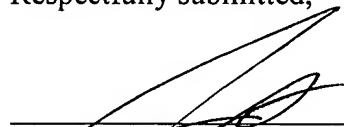
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 23 and 28-36. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of Claims 1-22, 24-27, and 37-49 but for the objections noted above. In view of this allowance and indication of allowable subject matter and in view of the amendments made above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application should be passed to allowance. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4719.

Dated: October 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include (1) changes to Figure 1 to add the legend “Prior Art” and (2) new Figures 6-10. These sheets replace the originally-filed sheets of drawings.